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Trigonometrical Survey of India, and believe me always very gratefully your affectionate attached friend,

(Signed)

A. S. WAUGH.

27th August, 1857.

I have a good paper on the stocks now, on the Himalaya Peaks, which, I think, will do for the Royal Geographical Society; but the unsettled state of the country, and the inundated state of the roads, make it hazardous to forward any valuable documents, while our own precarious position here is equally an objection the other way. I hope we shall be able to carry on our work without interruption. The Kashmir and Tibet Survey is progressing beautifully, and will make a lovely topographical map, which it will do your eyes good to behold. Montgomerie and Elliot Brownlow have just fixed two peaks on the Kara-Korum, one of which is 27,928 feet high, according to their field computations, its distance being 136 miles from our last stations. This would indicate the peak to be the 3rd highest yet measured. The Kashmir series has twice crossed the snowy range, with two stations each time on it. It is syonmetrical and double, and a noble achievement, worthy of your successors.

A. S. WAUGH.

The first Paper read was:—

1. *Progress of the British North American Expedition, under the command of Capt. JOHN PALLISER, F.R.G.S.*

Communicated by the Rt. Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., F.R.G.S., H. M.'s Secretary for the Colonies.

Sault Sainte Marie, 10th June, 1857.

SIR,—I have the honour to report my arrival here at 4 o'clock this morning.

We started from Liverpool in the Arabia steamer, which left England at 3 P.M., May 16th, and landed at New York at 6 P.M. on the 28th May.

Immediately on landing we experienced some difficulty with the Custom-house at New Jersey (*sic*), and subsequently * were enabled to pass our instruments through, owing to the kind assistance of Mr. Pompelly of New York, whose acquaintance we casually made at our hotel next morning. Mr. Pompelly, aided by Mr. Wheatley, well known in the scientific world as an accomplished mineralogist, accompanied us on the 29th May to the Custom-house, and having explained the object of our expedition, and representing it as one directed by Her Britannic Majesty's Government, these gentlemen at length succeeded in accomplishing our object of passing the instruments, saddles, guns, &c., but not until they had called on the solicitor of the customs and conferred with the superintendent and

* The American authorities had probably not been apprised of the expedition.
—ED.

several of the subordinate officers of the Custom-house. I have entered into these minutiae, as I consider the kindness of these two gentlemen and their anxiety in the furtherance of international science deserving of the highest praise.

I am much concerned at having to report about this date the bursting of one of our new barometers. I am fully convinced that this accident has not occurred from the relaxation of Dr. Hector's vigilance over the barometers, which has been most unremitting. I therefore had the instrument examined by the first makers in New York, who agreed that it might have arisen from the tightness of the metal fittings enclosing the cistern, which prevented its due expansion with a great rise in temperature, such as we experienced on landing at New York.

Mr. Pompelly, however, most kindly applied for us, and obtained one of the New York Observatory barometers, until such time as ours could be repaired and forwarded to Carlton House, or be otherwise reclaimed.

On the morning of the 2nd of June we started for Detroit *via* Elmira and the Niagara Falls. At Detroit we were detained several days, as the steamer to the Sault Ste. Marie had not yet returned; she, however, arrived on Saturday the 6th, reporting much ice still floating on Lake Superior, and also that Sir George Simpson was still detained at the Sault Ste. Marie by the ice. We have, therefore, no longer any reason to regret the delay of our departure from England, as all progress, owing to the very unusual lateness of the season, would hitherto have been denied us.

On my arrival this morning at the Sault Ste. Marie I found my two birch canoes and sixteen rowers awaiting me, and have made an arrangement with the captain of the steamer to take us up, with men, boats, luggage, and all, to Isle Royale, and, as the steamer is now starting, I conclude my Report, and remain, &c. *

Fort Garry, Hudson Bay Co.'s Territories,
16th July, 1857.

SIR,—In continuation of my Report, dated Sault Ste. Marie, June 10th, 1857, I have now the honour of acquainting you with our farther progress.

Owing to the unusual lateness of the season, Lake Superior was crowded with floating ice, offering great difficulties even to a steamer; and, after consulting experienced persons, I determined to accept the further assistance of the steamer Illinois, whose cap-

* The expedition had arrived at Pembina on the Red River in July, 1857.—ED.

tain agreed for the sum of 300 dols. to take up my two canoes on deck, 16 voyageurs, and ourselves across the Lake, and leave us near Isle Royale, about eight hours paddling distance from Fort William.

Although this might have appeared a large sum (*i.e.* 61*l.* 5*s.*), yet subsequently I had reason to congratulate myself on adopting that course, for shortly after the men and canoes were taken up, we came on fields of ice, and the captain, after pushing his way for several miles, fell in with a schooner that warned him to return and try a course along the north shore of the Lake. At length, after deviating 70 miles from his course, he succeeded, and came in sight of the island at daybreak of the 12th of June, four miles to the N.E.

We then launched, loaded, and started in our canoes, having avoided not only seven or eight days' journey, but also the risk of being stopped altogether by the ice.

We reached the mouth of the Kaministoquoiah at nightfall, and arrived at Fort William at 10 P.M. on the 12th of June, where we learned that Sir George Simpson had only preceded us eleven days, having been eight days on the north shore of Lake Superior, where his canoe had been broken on the ice.

On Saturday, 13th of June, we started, and encamped some miles from the Fort, and on Sunday the 14th arrived at the mouth of the White Fish River. I halted here, and, according to my instructions, organised a party, consisting of myself and Dr. Hector, three voyageurs, and three Indians, and ascended the White Fish River. I chose these small birch canoes on account of their drawing but very little water; they could merely carry two paddlers and one passenger each, while the third, with two paddlers, took the provisions for the party, consisting of eight people in all.

I can readily understand why the existence of this river has been denied, as its mouth could be easily passed unobserved by those only travelling in canoes on the Kaministoquoiah, owing to its taking a sudden bend before flowing into that river, and therefore appearing much like a recess of the Kaministoquoiah.

The White Fish River varies in breadth from 40 to 60 yards, and is 5 feet deep at its mouth, but useless for purposes of navigation owing to the frequency of the rapids. We punted up a considerable portion of the stream at intervals when the rapidity of the river prevented us from paddling. In the first day of our journey up the river the barometer indicated a proximate ascent of 75 feet in 12 miles, and on the second day a farther rise of 100 feet in 6 miles. Here a very large tree fell on one of the canoes and

dashed it to pieces, I myself narrowly escaping by jumping out of the way. The rain was very severe, and the men very much exposed, being obliged frequently to get out up to their middles in water to assist in bringing up the canoes.

Owing to the accident which befel our boat with the provisions, we were obliged to return the next day.

Dr. Hector and I started accordingly on foot at 6 A.M., June 14th, straight through thick woods, in the direction of the Falls of the Kakebeka, distant, by our calculation, 27 miles, taking two Indians with us, and sending back the remaining canoes with the third Indian and the three voyageurs to the camp at the mouth of the White Fish River, with directions for the whole party to go on to the Falls of Kakebeka and meet us there.

On leaving the course of the White Fish River we ascended a steep bank into a region of larch woods, and, contrary to our expectations from the previous reports, found no difficulty in pushing forward at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles through the country intercepted between the White Fish and Kaministoquoia Rivers, and if we could take our experience of that portion of the country for a fair average of the whole, I do not apprehend any difficulty in connecting, either by means of railroad or a common road, the country around Fort William with the south shore of Sturgeon Lake; but the accident which occurred to our boat and provisions took place before we reached the waterparting which must necessarily exist between the head of White Fish River and the waters which flow into Lake Winnipeg, and therefore it still remains to be seen what amount of difficulty to overcome the waterparting will present at that point, compared with that which it offers, both on the Old Portage Route and the Northern Portage Route, which we have followed.

All this time heavy rain fell with little intermission, and detained us for several days after we had arrived at the Kakebeka Falls.

On the 23rd we reached the height of land, and next morning crossed the Savannah Portage into the Savannah River, and commenced the descent of the water-parting towards Lake Winnipeg.

On the 1st July we arrived at Fort Francis on Lac la Pluie or Rainy Lake, and, while at breakfast in the fort, a large number of Indians formed a deputation, headed by their chiefs with their soldiers, and led by the old chief of the Lac la Pluie nation. It seems that they had heard a rumour of my arrival, and had organized this deputation for some time previously.* This fact I would not have taken up your time by dwelling on, were it not for the high tone which the

* See Note at p. 50.—ED.

old chief took in his harangue, which contained in it more than the mere ordinary imagery with which they make speeches for the sake of obtaining presents. He said, "I do not ask for presents, although I am poor and my people are hungry, but I know that you have come straight from the great country, and we know that no man from the Great Queen ever came to us and lied. I want you to declare to us truthfully what the Great Queen of your country intends to do to us when she will take the country from the Fur Company's people? All around me I see the smoke of the white man to rise—the 'Long Knives' (*i.e.* the Americans) are trading with our neighbours for their land, and they are cheating them, and deceiving them. Now, we will not sell or part with our lands."

It was of no use to try and cut him short by any assurances that I was not employed to treat for the sale of his lands, and I told him confidently that if he did not wish to part with his lands, and also if he and his people behaved as always they had done, that is quietly and peaceably with the white faces, I would assure him that the Queen would never send soldiers to deprive them of their lands by force.

Here an Indian (not of their nation, but of a friendly neighbouring tribe) muttered to him in a low tone, "Make him put it into writing on a piece of paper; make him, I say: and now I have said it, for it is nothing to me one way or the other, but I know the whites on the other side where we are, and I say make him put it into writing." But the orator said aside to him, "No; what he will say he will keep to!"

"Now," continued he aloud, "what is to become of us? We have no more animals; they are all gone; and without skins the Company will not give us goods from their store; and only for the little fish we take we would starve, and many of us do starve and die." I answered that they were to blame for not endeavouring to cultivate their lands, and find other resources for maintaining themselves besides hunting. He answered, "There are none to show us, and we have no implements to do it with." He then objected to M. Bourgeau collecting plants, and requested that Dr. Hector should not take away any mineral specimens as long as we were in his territories. He also begged that the Great Queen might be made acquainted with their unhappy condition, and that she might know that his heart was grieved by reason of all those of his children who died by hunger. He asked me to promise that I would acquaint the Great Queen of these things, and to see her myself. But I satisfied him that I would write his words to the

big men that were in the habit of giving good advice to the Queen, and so we parted good friends.

All this, insignificant as it may appear, was of some importance to us, as the chiefs, with their old leader and orator, were highly excited. There were upwards of 200 Indians inside the fort, 100 of whom were armed, and our party consisted of myself and interpreter and my three companions, and the agent and storekeeper of the fort.

The conference lasted $2\frac{3}{4}$ hours, in which period I heard and replied to five speeches, and the gentlemen in charge of the post seemed greatly relieved at the Indians quietly leaving the fort on the successful issue of the conference.

On the 5th July we camped on Sturgeon Lake, at the mouth of what has hitherto been called Sturgeon River, and, according to my instructions, I started with Dr. Hector to explore back again in a S.E. direction towards the White Fish River. We had not proceeded far when what appeared merely a river turned out to be a passage to a very large lake.

We pushed across in an easterly direction and searched the opposite shore for an outlet; found a very fine waterfall, and walked up the woods without much difficulty for about a mile and a half, when we came on another lake whose dimensions appeared not far inferior to those of the first. And from all I have seen both immediately on the route and whenever I have deviated (which I have often on foot for hours while the men were resting or cooking), I have come to the conclusion that the whole country between the waterparting and Sturgeon Lake is but a mass of lakes and islands. The traversing of this country can only be effected in winter by means of sledges and snow shoes when the lakes are frozen, and the underwood, the swamp, and fallen timber are filled up by the snow, over which there is then no difficulty in travelling on snow-shoes; and I was aware that this was not the proper season for carrying out the investigation on account of the large staff of men, canoes, and provisions which I would have required, and the details of which (*i.e.* those connected with running a road through a woody, swampy, and lake country) would be far better carried out by a professional engineer with a sufficient staff of assistants and lumberers—the providing of which would perhaps more immediately be the duty of the Canadian than of her Majesty's Government at home. It is much to be regretted that so many miles of deep and valuable watercarriage should be rendered unavailable by so great a number of small insignificant portages. Many of these difficulties, however, are to be overcome by engineer-

ing at but a trifling expense, and if ever the country becomes inhabited it will hereafter enjoy much facility for steam-boat communication.

On Wednesday, July 8th, we reached the Island Portage, the last on the route, whence there is uninterrupted communication by water all the way across Lake Winnipeg to Lower and Upper Fort Garry, and as far as Fort Pembina on the other side of the frontier.

We reached Lower Fort Garry on Saturday, 11th; rode to the English Protestant Church on Sunday, about 4 miles distant, and were much surprised to find a large attentive congregation of Scotch people and half-breeds of various shades of colour.

The summer here is very warm, and crops seem quite, by the rapidity of their growth now, to make up for the long dreary winter of this country. . . .

Thunderstorms are of frequent occurrence here, and though apparently not severe, yet frequently fatal to human life. While I was writing the above a flash of lightning has fallen on an Indian tent and killed one man and three women; I found two of them fearfully burnt, but the remaining two, though quite dead, are seemingly untouched. I have myself frequently, on Lac la Pluie and elsewhere on the route, observed the lightning to flash upwards from the earth to the impending cloud, when it often presents the appearance of a forked string of bright beads.

I purpose leaving this on Monday morning, with Dr. Hector, Mr. Sullivan, and M. Bourgeau, and 13 men, all well armed. We shall go as far as the frontier at Pembina, and thence along the boundary to Turtle Mountain, thence to Beaver Creek, and from thence right across to the elbow on the Lower Saskatchewan. My horses, about 30 in number, stand me an average of 20*l.* each, and the men's wages at the rate of 40*l.* per year. Traversing the Lower Saskatchewan is, I regret to say, not unattended with danger. Sir George Gore was reported as having been decoyed into a conference with the Sioux, about a year ago, and he and his party were robbed of their baggage, horses, clothes, arms, and ammunition, and he himself without even a shirt was obliged to take refuge at Fort Union, fortunately not too far away to enable them to reach alive.

I have the honour to inclose you my Secretary, Mr. Sullivan's, astronomical observations, and I have desired Dr. Hector to communicate his geological researches to Sir R. Murchison.

M. Bourgeau has been most successful in his botanical collections, and is preparing a case of flora and seeds for Sir William Hooker, which I trust will arrive safely in England before the end of October next.

I have endeavoured to embody as many of the principal incidents recorded in my journal as the short space in an official letter will permit, and I hope to have the honour of continuing this Report as soon as I have reached my winter quarters at Fort Carlton.

I have, &c.

Fort Pembina, Hudson-Bay Co.'s Territories,
27th July, 1857.

SIR,—In continuation of my Report of the 16th July, I have the honour to inform you of the departure of the Expedition from Fort Garry to Fort Pembina on the 21st instant.

I have now engaged 12 men, 30 horses, 2 small waggons, and 5 carts. In consequence of the absence of buffalo in this portion of the country, I am obliged to carry along with me a considerable quantity of provisions to last until we arrive sufficiently far to the westward to fall in with these animals. For this purpose I found the small, heavy carts of the country not sufficient, and, contrary to the advice and prejudices of the people, bought two small American waggons, and have found them most efficient.

I was not disappointed with the class and condition of the horses obtained for me by the Hudson Bay Company, as I have all along been aware that the half-breeds of Red River have taken their best horses to the summer buffalo-hunt.

I have, in order to save as much extra travelling as possible to the horses, sent on four men with four carts and ten horses straight to Beaver Creek, with orders to await our arrival in that quarter; while Dr. Hector, Mr. Sullivan, and myself take the route thither *via* Pembina and Turtle Mountain. This arrangement will serve to recruit my horses, whose pasture hitherto has not been good.

On leaving Fort Garry we crossed the river Assineboine, and proceeded up the Red River for nine or ten miles in a course a little east of south, through copse and light timber. We crossed the river Sall (*sic*) 9 miles from Fort Garry, a river about 25 yards wide, but not put down on the maps. Shortly after this we emerged on the open prairie over a well-defined road indicating a far greater amount of traffic than I had expected to find.

Owing to the peculiar distribution of the wood, which consists chiefly of fine oak-trees, confined principally to the right bank of the river, the tortuous course is very distinctly marked by jutting promontories, called by the people "points." I observed that the agricultural resources of the country were not merely confined to Red River settlement; for the country through which

we passed assumed fully equal, and in some places even superior, advantages, being more elevated above the river. I had an opportunity of noting the nature of the soil, where a settler was digging for marl, about 6 feet deep, and again at Pembina, where I had a special examination made. It consists of about 1 foot of black vegetable mould resting on a free clay loam of a light grey colour, but very deficient of sand. The banks of the rivers in this country are composed of remarkably tenacious clay mud, rendering access to them very difficult, and great care is required in passing a cart or waggon across. On the 22nd we crossed Rivière qui Grate, situated 38 miles south of Fort Garry : this river, as well as the river Sall, we passed in pontoons. The ferryman here was a very intelligent American, who had recently arrived in the country by a route from the Lake of the Woods, following the course of Reed Grass River.

He described the first 25 miles, west of the Lake of the Woods, as being flat and swampy ; he partly paddled and partly dragged his canoe over a slightly rising country, until he reached Reed Grass Lake, out of which a river of the same name flows ; the country about the head waters of this river is swampy : but the lower half of its course, according to his account, flows through a dry and finely-wooded country ; he described the river as shallow and swift, only fit for very small canoes.

I observed large pieces of driftwood scattered about the higher spots of the prairie, indicating the extent to which the whole country is flooded in spring ; by measurement I ascertained that, last spring, the water rose 35 feet above the present level of the stream, and it is by no means unusual for the flood to reach 10 feet higher. Opposite Fort Pembina the river is about 80 yards wide and 12 feet deep ; in dry seasons it falls 5 feet lower. From Mr. Iddings (an American civil engineer, whose name will appear in this despatch) I ascertained that the river is 15 feet deep 200 miles farther up ; but there its width is reduced to 90 feet, and the frequent occurrence of sharp bends in its course would make it difficult to ascend in steamboats.

The mouth of Pembina River, which flows from the west into Red River, is situated about 2 miles south of the boundary line. Upon this river, at a distance of about 25 miles from this, I am informed that there is a thriving American town, called San Josef's, which, owing to its recent establishment, is not yet recognised in our maps.

On Friday, July 24th (the day after my arrival here), my secretary, Mr. Sullivan, and I took the meridian altitudes of the sun, in order to find the locus of the 49th degree of north latitude, and to determine the direction of the boundary line.

We were shown at the same time a post driven into the earth to indicate a similar observation taken by Mr. Nicolay (*sic*), an American gentleman well known in the American scientific world.

The result of our observations differed by 370 yards, the American observer's result having been in favour of her Majesty.

On this occasion I availed myself of the valuable assistance of Mr. Iddings, the gentleman to whom I have alluded above, and who is commissioned to lay out lots of land from the frontier line southward, purchased by an American Land Company; and this gentleman, with my secretary, Mr. Sullivan, placed another post at about 300 yards in the direction of true west, making the necessary allowance for the variation of the compass here, which Mr. Sullivan found to be 14° E.

Mr. Iddings informed me that the land company by whom he is employed intend to build a town here, and establish a railway station about two miles distant from the posts, whose positions we have established. As yet the place is but a wild waste. The Hudson Bay Company's Fort, where we have been residing for the last two or three days, is a very small establishment, and the American one, situated about two miles on the other side of our present line, is still smaller and more wretched in appearance.

It however professes to be a post-office, and carries a mail, said to be a monthly one, from St. Paul's; but as the postmaster is away at present, and left the place under care of an Indian woman, who speaks no other language but her own, consequently I cannot form very accurate ideas as to the safety of any letters committed to its care. Still, however, I am induced to forward these by the assurance of an intelligent half-breed, who told me that the post-office here is "a very lucky one."

Enclosed is a note of the observations made on the direction of the boundary line, drawn up and signed by myself and the two gentlemen engaged in the survey.

I have, &c.,

JOHN PALLISER, Captain.

H. M. Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Extract from Private Letter from Mr. PALLISER, dated 27th July, 1857 :—

“ I forgot to mention in my letter to Mr. Labouchere that the town which the Americans are about to build at our frontier line, is to be called St. Vincent. Mr. Iddings, the American engineer, told me, that as soon as he returns to St. Paul he will produce his map of the projected town and railway station, and they (the members of the Land Company) proceed to name the streets. I think I was just in time with my observation on the Boundary Line, and in coming to an understanding with the American engineer, which may perhaps be the means of avoiding unpleasant disputes by-and-bye.”

Note of Observations at Pembina by Captain PALLISER, Mr. IDDINGS (U. S. Civil Engineer), and Mr. SULLIVAN :—

An observation taken at the above place by Mr. Nicolay (*sic.*) in 1848-49, places a post in latitude 49° N.

An observation taken by Captain Palliser places the same post in latitude 48° 59' 49" N.

Mr. Iddings and my secretary, Mr. Sullivan, after ascertaining the variation of the compass, erected a second post distant from the first 370 yards due east, thus determining the direction of the Boundary Line.

(Signed) JOHN PALLISER, Captain, F.R.G.S.,
Commanding British N. American Expedition.

(Signed) C. W. IDDINGS, c.e., (U. S.)

(Signed) JOHN W. SULLIVAN, Secretary and
Astronomical Assistant to the Expedition.

Locality.	Bar.	Ther.	Longitudes.	Latitudes.	Variations.
Trembling Portage ..	29.1	61	89 59 48 W.	48 31 5 N.	6 21 E.
On Kaministoquoiah ..	28.9	56	89 58 10 W.	48 40 00 N.	5 14 E.
In Lat. 48° 45' N. ..	28.8	57	89 53 0 W.	48 45 00 N.	8 54 E.
In Lat. 48° 45' N. ..	28.75	69	89 53 48 W.	48 55 00 N.	9 5 E.
Savannah Portage ..	28.62	84	90 5 0 W.	48 53 00 N.	6 53 E.
Perch Lake ..	28.44	81	91 12 0 W.	48 35 00 N.	8 14 E.
In Lat. 48° 27' N. ..	29.05	51	92 30 0 W.	48 27 00 N.	9 53 E.
Fort Francis ..	29.0	85	93 30 0 W.	48 36 00 N.	9 31 E.
In Lat. 48° 50' N. ..	29.45	83	93 58 0 W.	48 50 00 N.	11 20 E.
In Lat. 49° 26' N. ..	29.39	85	94 48 0 W.	49 26 00 N.	10 17 E.
In Lat. 50° 15' N. ..	..	..	95 17 19 W.	50 15 00 N.	15 7 E.
Lake Winnipeg ..	..	..	96 34 0 W.	50 33 48 N.	14 41 E.
Ditto ..	..	..	96 30 25 W.	50 23 48 N.	14 9 E.

N.B.—The Tabulated Longitudes are not deduced from the Tabulated Altitudes—the *Variations* only.

(Signed) JOHN W. SULLIVAN, Secretary to the Expedition.

Approved as correct,

July 17, 1857.

(Signed) JOHN PALLISER.

Locality.	Bar.	Ther.	Latitude.	Longitude.
		°	° ' "	° ' "
Fort William	29° 5	64	48 24 10 N.	89 26 10 W.
Trembling Portage	29° 1	61	48 31 5 N.	89 59 48 W.
Dog Portage, west end	28° 8	57	48 46 11 N.	89 54 45 W.
Dog River, right bank	28° 75	69	48 56 0 N.	89 54 48 W.
Savannah Portage	28° 62	84	48 53 2 N.	90 13 46 W.
Barrier Portage	28° 85	79	48 45 58 N.	90 51 24 W.
French Portage	28° 39	79	48 40 0 N.	91 11 30 W.
Camp Portage	28° 37	81	48 15 57 N.	92 28 28 W.
In Lat. 48° 27' 5" N.	28° 4	94	48 27 5 N.	92 30 4 W.
Fort Francis	28° 41	73	48 36 15 N.	93 33 33 W.
Rainy River, left bank	28° 5	86	48 50 0 N.	94 14 19 W.
Portage de Bois	29° 06	86	49 26 8 N.	94 48 7 W.
Winnipeg River	29° 0	89	49 55 0 N.	94 45 30 W.
Do., right bank	28° 95	92	50 15 6 N.	95 17 19 W.
Lake Winnipeg, south side ..	29° 0	93	50 22 58 N.	96 30 25 W.

(Signed) JOHN W. SULLIVAN, Secretary to the Expedition.

Approved as correct,

July 17, 1857.

(Signed) JOHN PALLISER.

The PRESIDENT.—We return our thanks to Mr. Palliser and his associates, and also to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, for his kindness in communicating these original documents to the Royal Geographical Society. It must be very gratifying to receive these important communications, knowing, as we do, that *the expedition originated entirely with this Society*. From what we have heard of the progress that has been made, I think we may expect the most valuable results not only to geographical and magnetical science and natural history, but also for the benefit of the nation, in clearly defining the line of boundary between the United States and the British possessions. The labours of the expedition will be still more valuable when they are extended to the Rocky Mountains, in order to discover whether there be not a passage in our own territories to Vancouver Island, that important station on the Pacific which is so full of coal and other products. Mr. Palliser and his scientific associates will examine thoroughly the geological and mineral structure of the Rocky Mountains and of the lands extending to the Pacific, and also describe the animals and plants of the whole region.

The Rev. Mr. NICOLAY, F.R.G.S.—It may interest this meeting to know that another expedition has been traversing the same country this summer, sent out by the Canadian Government, and led by Mr. Gladman, to examine the country between Lake Superior and Lake Winnipeg. I regret that Mr. Palliser should have been delayed in the examination of this district, seeing that a sufficient staff had been sent out for the purpose by the Canadian Government, which had voted 5000*l.* for the purpose, and that it had been frequently traversed before. By far the most important part of the country is that which Mr. Palliser is now examining. Whatever may be the character of the country between the two lakes, it must be a long time before it can be of political interest as compared with the country to the west of Fort Garry. The last despatch of Captain Palliser shows that; and it shows also how the people of the United States are creeping up towards the boundary and settling there. There are some points to which I would draw the attention of the meeting. With reference to the country between Lake Superior and Lake Winnipeg, where Captain Palliser speaks of a district of larch woods, about 27 miles in length, between the White Fish River and the Falls of the Kaministoquoia. Now, that being

to the east of the water parting is an important fact, because it shows that there is a large district within the present limits of Canada fit for the habitation of civilised man. More than this, Mr. Salter, provincial land surveyor, who was sent out by the Canadian Government, writes to the effect, that in running an exploring line from Lake Nipissing to Backewanaung Bay, on Lake Superior, he came on a magnificent tract of country abounding in every requisite for immediate settlement—well watered, admirably timbered, with maple, beech, iron wood, and other hard woods, and easily accessible. I need not say how important this territory will be to Canada, but I may remark that it entirely bears out the report which Dr. Bigsby made of what he saw and heard in passing to the north of Lake Superior, with respect to this very region, which he calls, I think, the Sugar-Maple District. Mr. Gladman seems to be highly satisfied with the country which he examined. He pursued the same route as Palliser, but at a later period of the year, and he reports it as extremely fertile and good: he measured trees 9 feet in circumference. He also speaks of meeting Indians, as Mr. Palliser does; and I confess I wish we had before the Society an account of what transpired between Palliser and the Indians, because from what happened to Mr. Gladman I should be led to think that Mr. Palliser had communications of considerable importance with them, which may render necessary the immediate interference either of our own Government or of the Canadian Government. In connection with this subject I may mention that in this morning's papers there was an account of the Mormons stimulating the Indians of the plains to attack and destroy the troops of the United States on their road to Utah. This is not on the usual route to Utah, but on the northern route by the Missouri, so that the Indians are in a state of insurrection, if not on our own boundary, at all events immediately to the south of it.*

A word dropped from you, Sir, which I hope means all that I think it does. You spoke of the expedition crossing the Rocky Mountains. I had fears that the expedition was to terminate at the Rocky Mountains.

The PRESIDENT.—No, no.

Mr. NICOLAY.—I am glad to hear that that is not the case.

The PRESIDENT.—On the contrary, they have the most minute instructions to examine the whole of the opposite face of the Rocky Mountains.

Mr. NICOLAY.—But not to go much beyond that?

The PRESIDENT.—They are to go to the sea-board on the Pacific.

Mr. NICOLAY.—My reason for asking is this:—In the evidence lately given before a Committee of the House of Commons, a great deal was said about a district called “Thomson's River District.” Thomson's River flows into the Fraser River about latitude 51. Now the report of that district is, that it is one of the most fertile and admirable for settlement in the whole of North America. It is very desirable that our expedition should cross that district to ascertain whether it is so or not; and, especially, if it be true that the people of the United States are coming from Oregon, and finding gold in very large quantities there, as stated in the Blue Book.† For many years I have had a knowledge of what is now called Thomson's River District, and I know its agricultural value to be great, though probably it is not superior to the country between it and the Rocky Mountains: of its mineral wealth I know no more than has been stated in evidence, but surely it is a most important thing that the expedition should go and ascertain the fact, if it be so. It is also distinctly asserted by those who ought to know that there is no practicable pass in the

* Here, at the request of the President, the passage of the original document, inserted in brackets at pages 41 to 43, was read.—Ed.

† This is also mentioned in the Report of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey of the United States, with reference to the population of the Washington territory.

Rocky Mountains for about 180 miles from the Kootenais Pass to that between Mounts Brown and Marker. I appeal to geographers whether there is a range of mountains in this earth which has no practicable pass in 180 miles? I have no knowledge of such a range, and I again appeal to the geographers present, and ask whether there is such a range, except it be the Rocky Mountains? I feel sure, therefore, that Mr. Palliser will find one; but if he does not ascertain the character of the country between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific, he will come back without his laurels. For myself I think that the most important object of the expedition. And I venture to add that Government should be urged to extend the expedition to the mouth of Fraser's River, in the Gulf of Georgia, as it would be a most desirable thing both for the ends of science and for the interests of the country at large.

[Here was read an extract of a letter from Mr. Sullivan, in which the word *sceptre* occurred.]

COL. LEFROY, F.R.G.S.—I must venture to express a little doubt as to the fidelity of the report of Mr. Palliser's conference with the Indians. His interpreter must have taken some little liberty with the subject, for I doubt whether any American Indian ever talked of his sceptre or of his subjects. The government among the natives is not a monarchical one, nor are the people in the position of subjects towards their chiefs. However, that is little to the purpose. With regard to the state of distress among the Indians, it arises from causes not within the control of the Hudson Bay Company. It arises from the unproductiveness of the country. It is not frequented by any large animals, but almost entirely by rabbits. The Indians live principally on rabbits, and clothe themselves in rabbit skins. They also partly subsist on sturgeon, which they catch at times in the lakes. Sometimes they are well fed and sometimes they are in a state of lingering starvation; but this does not imply neglect on the part of those who are the temporary guardians of that territory. A considerable amount of agriculture has been practised among the Indians on the Rainy Lake. Wherever they have perseverance and diligence enough to devote themselves to garden culture they succeed; they grow potatoes, herbs, and other produce to some extent. But as a general rule, as everybody knows, they are very destitute, because they will not labour. They prefer starvation to work. I say this to turn the edge of what might seem an imputation on the rulers of those regions. With regard to Captain Palliser's account it must not be supposed that ice on Lake Superior on the 12th of June is a common thing. The last was an unusually severe winter. Generally speaking, the lake is free from ice in May. The ascent of the White Fish River is highly interesting, because if a navigable communication with Lake à la Crosse can be established by that stream it will shorten the present distance 40 or 50 miles. Looking, however, to its very short course, it can scarcely be navigable any distance: the Kakebeka itself, with numerous feeders and draining a comparatively large area, being frequently so low as to occasion many difficulties to the canoes. I hope I shall not be considered to have impugned Mr. Palliser's fidelity or veracity. That little point struck me, and it occurred to me that the imagination of his interpreter rather ran away with him. That the address is given with substantial accuracy I do not for a moment doubt.

DR. HODGKIN, F.R.G.S.—Though I agree with Colonel Lefroy that the Indians are not ruled with sceptres, yet I think the whole of the speech could not have been an invention on the part of the interpreter. It speaks of Indians having resided for several generations on that spot, therefore I think it must be more than merely a rabbit warren. The fact that the "long-knives," the Americans, are creeping up and settling on the territory shows that it must be habitable. I am much inclined to believe that the natives have very much suffered in consequence of what has been going on, perhaps very naturally.

The trade in furs, we know, must exhaust the large and valuable animals ; and as the Indians are not an agricultural people, they are very likely to suffer. The tendency of the evidence is to show that they have deteriorated in consequence of the mode of management to which they have been subjected. I do not say this to complain of any persons, but to express my strong desire, that while this portion of our dominions continues to claim the attention of Government, as a country capable of supporting man, and of being turned to profit for the English nation, the aboriginal inhabitants may not be lost sight of. Sympathy is expressed in high quarters with regard to them, but it has been a barren sympathy. Up to the present time it has not in the slightest degree arrested their decline. I have had the opportunity of conversing with the Bishop of Rupert's Land, and of corresponding with persons in that and the adjoining territories, and I know there are individuals who feel for these aborigines. But the prevailing policy is decidedly hostile to their well-being, a fact which is greatly to be deplored.

Mr. NICOLAY.—Let me remind the meeting that Mr. Palliser is no novice in Indian life. He spent two years amongst the Missouri Indians, and this is not the first conversation he has had with the natives. Therefore we may conclude that this Report is substantially correct, though it may have verbal inaccuracies.

The PRESIDENT.—I am glad Mr. Nicolay has pointed out the qualifications of Mr. Palliser for this undertaking. He is indeed thoroughly acquainted with the American Indians. Having been a successful buffalo hunter, accustomed to the Indian sports, and having mixed much with the natives, I have not the least doubt that we shall have to thank him eventually for great geographical results.

The second Paper read was :—

2. *Notes from the Journal of the East African Expedition, under the command of Capt. RICHARD F. BURTON.*

British Consulate, Zanzibar,
22nd April, 1857.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Royal Geographical Society, a field-book, containing our route survey from Pangany to Fuga, our remarks upon the coast, and an account of our expedition up to date.

On the 5th January, 1857, I intimated to you our intention of visiting the East African mainland. The death of the Imám of Muskat, H. H. Saggid Said, the undecided succession, and the troubled state of the interior, then suffering from famine, war, and drought, rendered a preparatory excursion advisable. We could obtain no useful information from the European merchants of Zanzibar, who are mostly ignorant of everything beyond the island. The Arabs and Sawahilis, who were adverse to, and fearful of, white travellers, *did* give us information, but it was worse than none. We had not heard from the Rev. Mr. Rebmann, who still remained at the Mission-house near Mombás ; and, finally, it was judged expedient to be seasoned by fever on the coast before attempting the far Unyamesi Lake.